



San Diego City Attorney CASEY GWINN

MEDIA RELEASE/CONSUMER ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, September 13, 2000

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CONSIGNMENT STORE VICTIMS TO GET PROPERTY BACK

Investigators Looking for People Who Did Business with La Jolla Consignment

San Diego, CA (September 13, 2000) -- If you did business with a store called La Jolla Consignment, the San Diego City Attorney and District Attorney may have good news for you. Investigators have recovered thousands of dollars worth of property that belongs to former consignors, customers, and dealers of La Jolla Consignment.

The San Diego woman, who operated the now-closed consignment store that was located at 7509 Girard Avenue, is facing sentencing on charges of felony grand theft. Karen Kaye Walters was charged with 58 counts of theft and embezzlement in a criminal complaint filed jointly by San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn and District Attorney Paul Pfingst. In San Diego Superior Court this week, Walters pled guilty to three counts of felony grand theft with the White Collar Crime enhancement. Walters will be sentenced on October 10, 2000. An investigation revealed Walters closed the business in June 1999 and left San Diego, without returning to the consignors more than \$260,000 worth of unsold goods. A City Attorney investigator located Walters in New Mexico, where she had taken some of the missing property, including furniture, jewelry, and other antiques. Other items have been traced to a storage facility in El Cajon, California.

Anyone who had property remaining at La Jolla Consignment when it closed in June 1999, or who had paid La Jolla Consignment for property that was not received may file a claim for return of the property. To obtain a claim form, contact the City Attorney's Office at (619) 533-5645. All claims must be in writing and must include proof of the claim. All claim forms, along with proof of claim, must be received by the City Attorney's Office by Friday, October 13, 2000.

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